

WEEKLY MESSENGER.

J. M. SHACKELFORD, EDITOR.
R. H. JOHNSON, EDITOR.

RICHMOND, DEC. 10, 1852.

Last Supper.

This celebrated painting will be exhibited on Monday evening, the place will be designated in the posters.

The original of this picture is one of the most renowned in the world of art. It was painted by Leonardo Da Vinci, a Florentine, who lived in the 15th century, and was distinguished for the excellence of his design and composition. This great painting formed one of the principal ornaments of the Cathedral at Milan, but is now almost entirely destroyed by damp and mildew. The scene is, indeed, one of the most imposing and interesting recorded in the Bible, as it represents the time when Jesus said to his disciples, "one of you shall betray me;" when they in surprise and astonishment began to enquire among themselves who should do it.

Let all, who can, attend the exhibition, as it will be intensely interesting.

Artists' Union of Cincinnati.

We are informed by the Honorary Secretary for this place, Dr. J. E. BAKER, that the second annual distribution of this Institution will positively come off on the first of January, consequently, those who intend subscribing had better do so immediately. There is no danger, but what members will get the worth of their money, as they will receive two magnificent engravings, which are well worth the subscription price. Among other works of art to be distributed is that well renowned painting of Cole's, the Voyage of Life by Sonntag. As this is the only Art Union in the United States that will have a distribution this year, and a Western one at that, every one who can spare Five Dollars should not hesitate to invest.

Lycium.

Our citizens will please bear in mind, that the Lycium meets this (Friday) evening at the Presbyterian Church. Lecture, by Professor MacLEOD. Question for debate, "Should the Usury Laws of Kentucky be abolished?" Affirmative, Maj. R. RUSSELL; Negative, Rev. H. P. JOHNSON.

The citizens generally are invited to attend.

We publish to-day a portion of the President's Message. We regret exceedingly its length prohibits us from giving it entire. The remainder will appear next week, at which time we shall comment upon it should it be deemed expedient.

EXTRAORDINARY.—We have read several notices of different papers, in which editors have spoken in the most complimentary terms of different kinds of vegetables and among others named were Mammoth Beets. We have just received one which excels all we ever read of, consequently, we have concluded it was a whopper. It was raised in this town on the premises of Mr. Wm. Angel, and its dimensions are as follows: Weight twenty-two pounds and a half; circumference three feet.—Who can beat it.

A very large quantity of interesting matter is crowded out this week, on account of the President's Message.

We see by a notice in the Lancaster Argus, that its publication was delayed one day, last week, and its Editor refers its readers to another column for an explanation. Feeling an abiding interest in the welfare of the brethren of the press, we hastily turned to another page and there found—what? That the editor had just been married. All right FRANK, success to you, no one would have blamed you if your paper had been delayed a week.

We see by telegraphic reports, that an attempt has been made to exclude Hon. Archie Dixon, from his seat in the Senate. The nefarious design has not yet been accomplished. It is to be hoped that those in power will not wrong our State by thus declaring that Mr. Dixon is not entitled to the seat, to which he was honorably elected.

SQUIRE BASSETT, P. M., at Lexington, will please accept our grateful acknowledgments, for his kindness in sending us the President's Message.

We have heard those who know, say, that the best quality of cigars are to be found at I. D. Smith's. See advertisement.

The Polish Exiles in New York commemorated the twenty-third anniversary of their revolution by a grand mass at St. Andrew's Roman Catholic Church, on Monday last. A number of foreigners, other than Poles, were present.

At St. Louis, last Wednesday evening, the upholstery establishment of Mr. John Betts, on 2d street, between Locust and Vine, was destroyed by fire. Loss \$4,000.—insurance \$1,000. The building was valued at \$3,500 and was insured for \$600.

The late trip of the U. S. steamer Baltic was made from Liverpool to New York in the short space of ten days and fifteen hours, not withstanding a severe gale in the channel and rough weather generally throughout the passage.

Various reports having been afloat in regard to an unfortunate affair which occurred in St. Paul, Minnesota, in October last, in which Col. D. Breck, jr., and his brother James W. Breck were concerned, and in which one of the opposite party, an Irishman by the name of Dalton, was wounded and afterwards died, we publish below an extract of a letter to Col. Breck, now in this place, from one of the Grand Jury, before whom the case was investigated, with a view to show the true character of the transaction so far as Col. Breck and Brother were involved.

St. Paul, Nov. 11, 1852.

Respected Friend—Your case has been examined before the Grand Jury of this county, and also the case of your Brother James and thrown out by a unanimous vote of 23 Jurors, 1 being absent. Our unanimous opinion being that self defence justified the act of which you stood charged.

We are informed, that previous to the investigation of the affair by the Grand Jury, an inquest had been held by the coroner and the jury returned as their verdict that the deceased had come to his death from a wound inflicted in an affray of some unknown hand. It had also undergone an investigation before a Magistrate, and the warrant dismissed. Although the occurrence was unfortunate and deeply to be regretted, it is a source of satisfaction to the family of the Messrs. Breck, the community and ourselves personally to learn, that in the affair, they (the Brecks) are upheld and justified by the citizens of St. Paul, and all know and say that they acted entirely in self defence. The entire unanimity of the Grand Jury is a sure manifestation of what the prevailing feeling is there.

WEEKLY COURIER.—The eleventh volume of this large, popular and most excellent paper begin with the new year, 1853. W. N. HALDERMAN, Esq., the energetic proprietor has associated with him W. E. GALLAGHER, Esq., one of the ablest and most popular writers in the West both in the literary and political field. The paper heretofore has been one of the very best in the State, but now superior inducements are offered to subscribers. Murly of the heart, and Little Cripple and his Foster Mother, are two splendid Original Stories which will appear in the new volume, both of which we have no doubt, will be worth the price of subscription. The following are the terms. One copy of the weekly Courier, one year \$1.50. Five copies \$5. Eleven copies \$10. Twenty-two copies \$20. Daily Courier \$6. Half sheet Daily \$1. Tri-weekly \$40.

Postmasters are authorized to act as agents in obtaining subscribers. Any one desiring a paper from Louisville cannot do better than to subscribe for the Courier.

REV. DR. PARKMAN.—The report that the late Rev. Dr. Parkman, of Boston, committed suicide, is contradicted. He was, however, partially insane two days before his death, caused by a rush of blood to the head.

Canada is about granting 24,000,000 acres of land, N. E. of Lake Huron, in alternate sections, to actual settlers; being 100 acres to each family without price.

The steamship Baltic brings, with very late accounts from British India and China, a few items from Australia, down to the 31st of August.—They show, says the Times, a wonderful condition of affairs at the gold mines, and in the principal ports connected with their trade. During a single week in July, as much as 125,000 ounces of gold dust were brought into Melbourne and Port Philip, which at a valuation of \$20 (or £4 sterling) gives a weekly product of two and a half millions of dollars. Of course, this rate did not hold through the month, but the aggregate was not short of \$400,000 or \$500,000.

EARTHQUAKE.—A shock of an earthquake was felt in Exeter, N. H., on Saturday night, the 27th ult., at about half past 11 o'clock. It jarred the doors and windows considerably and shook down some plastering from one house. The Salem Register says that a shock was experienced in that city at about the same time, which was very perceptible for the space of half a minute.

The Newburyport Herald alludes to the shock: "A very heavy explosion startled our citizens at twenty-five minutes before 12 o'clock, on Saturday night. It came from a northerly direction."

A new silkworm, as we learn by the New York Times, has been discovered by the Rev. Mr. Fitch, according to whom all the caterpillars of California are silkworms. They feed on the foliage of the oak, which they prefer to any other food. Their cocoons are about one-third as large as those of the Chinese worm, and the silk is strong and of a yellow color, the thread being finer than that of our silkworm. Dr. Fitch was led to believe that this worm, if fed on the mulberry, would spin its cocoon as large as the Italian Chinese worm.

CONGRESS LIBRARY.—The Congressional Library of the national Capital at Washington, is progressing rapidly towards completion. Three months will probably elapse before the room will be ready for the reception of the books. The galleries, pillars, alcoves, shelves and ceiling will be all iron. The whole will be at once beautiful and durable.

Explanatory.

The brief space which has elapsed since the close of your last session has been marked by no extraordinary political event. The quadrennial election of Chief Magistrate has passed off with less than the usual excitement. However individuals and parties may have been disappointed in the result, it is nevertheless a subject of national congratulation that the choice has been effected by the independent suffrages of a free people, undisturbed by those influences which in other countries have too often affected the purity of popular elections.

Our grateful thanks are due to an All-mighty Providence, not only for staying the pestilence which in different forms has desolated some of our cities, but for crowning the labors of the husbandman with an abundant harvest, and the nation generally with the blessings of peace and prosperity.

Within a few weeks the public mind has been deeply affected by the death of Daniel Webster, filling at his decease the office of Secretary of State. His associates in the Executive Government have sincerely sympathized with his family and the public generally on his mournful occasion. His commanding talents, his great political and professional eminence, his well-kept patriotism, and his long and faithful services, have caused his death to be lamented throughout the country, and have earned for him a lasting place in our history.

In the course of the last summer considerable anxiety was caused for a short time by an official intimation from the government of Great Britain that orders had been given for the protection of the fisheries upon the coast of the British provinces in North America against the alleged encroachments of the fishing vessels of the United States and France. The shortness of the notice and the season of the year seemed to make it a matter of urgent importance. It was at first apprehended that an increased naval force had been ordered to the fishing grounds to carry into effect the British interpretation of those provisions of the convention of 1818, in reference to the true intent of which the two governments differ. It was soon discovered that such was not the design of Great Britain; and satisfactory explanations of the real objects of the measure have been given both here and in London.

The unadjusted difference, however, between the two governments as to the interpretation of the first article of the convention of 1818 is still a matter of importance. American fishing vessels within nine or ten years have been excluded from waters to which they had access for twenty-five years after the negotiation of the treaty. In 1815 this exclusion was relaxed so far as concerns the Bay of Fundy, but the just and liberal intention of the Home Government, in compliance with what we think the true construction of the convention, to open all the other outer bays to our fishermen, was abandoned, in consequence of the opposition of the colonies. Notwithstanding this, the United States have, since the Bay of Fundy was reopened to our fishermen in 1815, pursued the most liberal course toward the colonial fishing interests. By the revenue law of 1846, the duties on colonial fish entering our ports were very greatly reduced, and by the warehousing act it is allowed to be entered in bond without payment of duty. In this way colonial fish has acquired the monopoly of the export trade in our market, and is entering to some extent into the home market. These facts were among those which increased the sensibility of our fishing interest, at the movement in question.

These circumstances and the incidents above alluded to have led me to think the movement favorable for a reconsideration of the entire subject of the fisheries on the coast of the British provinces, with a view to place them upon a more liberal footing of reciprocal privilege. A willingness to meet us in some arrangement of this kind is understood to exist, on the part of Great Britain, with a desire on her part to include in one comprehensive settlement, as well this subject as the commercial intercourse between the United States and the British provinces. I have thought that whatever arrangements may be made on these two subjects, it is expedient that they should be embraced in separate conventions. The illness and death of the Secretary of State prevented the commencement of the contemplated negotiation. Pains have been taken to collect the information required for the details of such an arrangement. The subject is attended with considerable difficulty. It is found practicable to come to an agreement mutually acceptable to the two parties, conventions may be concluded in the course of the present winter. The control of Congress over all the provisions of such an arrangement, effecting the revenue, will of course be reserved.

The affairs of Cuba formed a prominent topic in my last annual message. They remain in an uneasy condition, and a feeling of alarm and irritation on the part of the Cuban authorities appears to exist. This feeling has interfered with the regular commercial intercourse between the United States and the island, and led to some acts of which we have been taught to complain. But the Captain General of Cuba is clothed with no power to treat with foreign governments, nor is he in any degree under the control of the Spanish Minister at Washington. Any communication which he may hold with an agent of a foreign power is informal and matter of courtesy. Anxious to put an end to the existing inconveniences, (which seemed to rest on a misconception,) I directed the newly-appointed Minister to Mexico to visit Havana, on his way to Vera Cruz. He was respectfully received by the Captain General, who conferred with him freely on the recent occurrences; but no permanent arrangement was effected.

In the mean time, the refusal of the Captain General to allow passengers and the mail to be landed in certain cases, for a reason which does not furnish the opinion of this Government even a good presumptive ground for such prohibition, has been made the subject of a serious remonstrance at Madrid; and I have no reason to doubt that due respect will be paid by the government of Her Catholic Majesty to the representations

which our Minister has been instructed to make on the subject.

It is but justice to the Captain General to add, that his conduct toward the steamers employed to carry the mails of the United States to Havana has, with the exceptions above alluded to, been marked with kindness and liberality, and indicates no general purpose of interfering with the commercial correspondence and intercourse between the island and this country.

Early in the present year official notes were received from the Ministers of France and England, inviting the Government of the United States to become a party to a tripartite Convention, in virtue of which the three powers should severally and collectively disclaim, now and for the future, all intentions to obtain possession of the island of Cuba, and should themselves disavow any attempt to effect on the part of any power or individual whatever. This invitation has been respectfully declined, for reasons which it would occupy too much space in this communication to state in detail, but which led me to think that the proposed measure would be of doubtful constitutionality, impolitic, and unavailing. I have, however, in common with several of my predecessors, directed the Ministers of France and England to be assured that the U. S. Government entertains no designs against Cuba; but that, on the contrary, I should regard its incorporation into the Union at the present time as fraught with serious peril.

Were this island comparatively destitute of inhabitants, or occupied by a kindred race, I should regard it, if voluntarily ceded by Spain, as a most desirable acquisition. But, under existing circumstances, I should look upon its incorporation into our Union as a very hazardous measure. It would bring into the Confederacy a population of a different national stock, speaking a different language, and not likely to harmonize with the other members. It would probably affect in a prejudicial manner the industrial interests of the South; and it might revive those conflicts of opinion between the different sections of the country, which lately shook the Union to its centre, and which have been so happily compromised.

The rejection by the Mexican Congress of the Convention which had been concluded between that Republic and the United States, for the protection of a transit way across the Isthmus of Tehuantepec and of the interests of those citizens of the United States who had become proprietors of the rights which Mexico had conferred on one of her own citizens in regard to that transit, has thrown a series of obstacles in the way of the attainment of a very desirable national object. I am still willing to hope that the differences on the subject which exist, or may hereafter arise, between the governments, will be amicably adjusted. This subject, however, has already engaged the attention of the Senate of the United States, and requires no further comment in this communication.

The settlement of the question respecting the port of San Juan de Nicaragua, and of the controversy between the republics of Costa Rica and Nicaragua in regard to their boundaries, was considered indispensable to the commencement of the ship canal between the two oceans, which was the subject of the Convention between the U. S. and Great Britain of the 18th of April, 1850. Accordingly a proposition for the same purposes addressed to the two governments in that quarter, and to the Mosquito Indians, was agreed to in April last, by the Secretary of State and the Minister of Her Britannic Majesty. Besides the wish to aid in reconciling the difference of the two republics, I engaged in the negotiation from a desire to place the great work of ship canal between the two oceans under our jurisdiction and to establish the important port of San Juan de Nicaragua under the government of a civilized power. The proposition in question was assented to by Costa Rica and the Mosquito Indians. It has not proved equally acceptable to Nicaragua, it is to be hoped that the further negotiations on the subject which are in train will be carried on in that spirit of conciliation and compromise which ought always to prevail on such occasions, and that they will lead to a satisfactory result.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that the executive government of Venezuela has acknowledged some claims of citizens of the United States, which have for many years past been urged by our charge d'affaires at Caracas. It is hoped that the same sense of justice will actuate the Congress of that Republic in providing the means for their payment.

The recent revolution in Buenos Ayres and the confederated States have opened the prospect of an improved state of things in that quarter, the governments of Great Britain and France determine to negotiate with the chief of the new Confederacy for the free access of their commerce to the extensive countries watered by the tributaries of the La Plata; and they gave a friendly notice of this purpose to the U. S. States, that we might if we thought proper pursue the same course. In compliance with this invitation, our minister at Rio Janeiro and our charge d'affaires at Buenos Ayres have been fully authorized to conclude treaties with the newly-organized confederation, or the States composing it. The delays which have taken place in formation of the new government have as yet prevented the execution of those instructions; but there is every reason to hope that these vast countries will be eventually opened to our commerce.

A treaty of commerce has been concluded between the United States and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, which will be laid before the Senate. Should this Convention go into operation, it will open to the commercial enterprise of our citizens a country of great extent and unsurpassed in natural resources, but from which foreign nations have hitherto been almost wholly excluded.

The correspondence of the late Secretary of State with the Peruvian charge d'affaires relative to the Lobos Islands was communicated to Congress toward the close of the last session. Since the subject, on further investigation of the subject, the doubts which had been entertained of the title of Peru to those islands have been removed, and I have

deemed it just that the temporary wrong which had been unintentionally done her from want of information, should be repaired by an unreserved acknowledgment of her sovereignty.

I have the satisfaction to inform you that the course pursued by Peru has been creditable to the liberality of her government. Before it was known by her that the title would be acknowledged at Washington, her Minister of Foreign Affairs had authorized our charge d'affaires at Lima to announce to the American vessels which had gone to the Lobos for guano, that the Peruvian Government was willing to freight them on its own account. This intention has been carried into effect by the Peruvian Minister here, by an arrangement which is believed to be advantageous to the parties in interest.

Our settlements on the shores of the Pacific have already given a great extension, and in some respects a new direction to our commerce in that ocean. A direct and rapidly-increasing intercourse has sprung up with Eastern Asia. The waters of the Northern Pacific, even into the Arctic sea, have of late years been frequented by our whalers. The application of steam to the general purposes of navigation is becoming daily more common, and makes it desirable to obtain fuel and other necessary supplies at convenient points on the route between Asia and our Pacific shores. Our unfortunate countrymen who from time to time suffer shipwreck on the coasts of the eastern seas are entitled to protection. Besides these specific objects, the general prosperity of our States on the Pacific requires that an attempt should be made to open the opposite regions of Asia to a naturally beneficial intercourse. It is obvious that this attempt could be made by no power so great advantage as by the U. S. States, whose constitutional system excludes every idea of distant colonial dependencies. I have accordingly been led to order an appropriate naval force to Japan, under the command of a discreet and intelligent officer of the highest rank known to our service. He is instructed to endeavor to obtain from the government of that country some relaxation of the inhospitable and anti-social system which it has pursued for about two centuries. He has been directed particularly to remonstrate in the strongest language against the cruel treatment to which our shipwrecked mariners have often been subjected, and to insist that they shall be treated with humanity. He is instructed however at the same time to give that government the most explicit assurances that the objects of the United States are such, and such only as I have indicated, and that the expedition is friendly and peaceful. Notwithstanding the jealousy with which the governments of Eastern Asia regard all overtures from foreigners, I am not without hopes of a beneficial result of the expedition.—Should it be crowned with success, the advantages will not be confined to the United States, but, as in the case of China, will be equally enjoyed by all the other maritime powers. I have much satisfaction in stating that in all the steps preparatory to this expedition the Government of the U. S. States has been materially aided by the good offices of the King of the Netherlands, the only European power having any commercial relations with Japan.

In passing from this survey of our foreign relations, I invite the attention of Congress to the condition of that department of the Government to which this branch of the public business is entrusted. Our intercourse with foreign powers has of late years greatly increased, both in consequence of our own growth and the introduction of many new States into the family of nations. In this way the Department of State has become overburdened. It has, by the recent establishment of the Department of the Interior, been relieved of some portion of the Domestic business. If the residue of the business of that kind, such as the distribution of Congressional documents, the keeping, publishing and distribution of the laws of the U. S. States, the execution of the copyright law, the subject of revivies and pardons, and some other subjects relating to Interior administration, should be transferred from the Department of State, it would unquestionably be for the benefit of the public service. I would also suggest that the building appropriated to the State Department is not fire-proof; that there is reason to think there are defects in its construction, and that the archives of the Government in charge of the Department, with the precious collections of the manuscript papers of Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison and Monroe, are exposed to destruction by fire. A similar remark may be made of the building appropriated to the War and Navy Departments.

The condition of the Treasury is exhibited in the annual report from that Department.

The cash receipts into the Treasury for the fiscal year ending the 30th June last, exclusive of trust funds, were forty-nine millions seven hundred and twenty-nine thousand three hundred and eighty-six dollars and eighty-nine cents, (\$49,728,386.89), and the expenditures for the same period, likewise exclusive of trust funds, were forty-six millions seven thousand eight hundred and ninety-five dollars and fifty-five cents, (\$46,007,896.20); of which nine millions four hundred and fifty-five thousand eight hundred and fifty-five cents (\$9,455,815.83) was on account of the principal and interest of the public debt, including the last instalment of the indemnity to Mexico, under the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, leaving a balance of \$14,632,136.37 for the Treasury on the first day of July last. Since this latter period, further purchases of the principal of the public debt have been made to the extent of two millions four hundred and fifty-six thousand five hundred and forty-six dollars and forty-nine cents, (\$2,456,547.49), and the surplus in the Treasury will continue to be applied to that object, whenever the stock can be procured within the limits, as to price, authorized by law.

The value of foreign merchandise imported during the last fiscal year was two hundred and seven millions two hundred and forty thousand one hundred and one dollars, (\$207,240,101); and the value of domestic productions exported was one hundred and eleven dol-

lars, (\$149,861,911); besides seventeen millions two hundred and four thousand and twenty-six dollars (\$17,204,026) of foreign merchandise exported; making the aggregate of the entire exports one hundred and sixty-seven millions six hundred and thirty-nine thousand three hundred and thirty-seven dollars, (\$167,065,937); exclusive of the millions five hundred and seventy-two thousand two hundred and eighty-five dollars (\$42,507,255) in specie; and imports from foreign ports five millions two hundred and sixty-two thousand six hundred and forty-three dollars, (\$5,262,643).

In my first annual message to Congress I called your attention to what seemed to me some defects in the present tariff, and recommended such modifications as in my judgment were best adapted to remedy its evils and promote the prosperity of the country. Nothing has since occurred to change my views on this important question.

Without repeating the arguments contained in my former message, in favor of discriminating, protective duties, I deem it my duty to call your attention to one or two other considerations affecting this subject. The first is, the effect of large importations of foreign goods upon our currency. Most of the gold of California, as fast as it is coined, finds its way directly to Europe in payment for goods purchased. In the second place, as our manufacturing establishments are broken down by competition with foreigners, the capital invested in them is lost, thousands of honest and industrious citizens are thrown out of employment, and the farmer to that extent is deprived of a home market for the sale of his surplus produce. In the third place, the destruction of our manufactures leaves the foreigner without competition in our market, and he consequently raises the price of the article here for sale, or is now seen in the increased cost of iron imported from England. The prosperity and wealth of every nation must depend upon its productive industry. The farmer is stimulated to exertion by finding a ready market for his surplus products, and benefited by being able to exchange them, without loss of time or expense of transportation, for the manufactures which his comfort or convenience requires. This is always done to the best advantage where a portion of the community in which he lives is engaged in other pursuits. But most manufactures require an amount of capital and a practical skill which cannot be commanded unless they be protected for a time from ruinous competition from abroad.—Hence the necessity of laying those duties upon imported goods which the Constitution authorizes for revenue, in such a manner as to protect and encourage the labor of our own citizens. Duties however should not be fixed at a rate so high as to exclude the foreign article, but should be so graduated as to enable the domestic manufacturer fairly to compete with the foreigner in our own markets, and by this competition to reduce the price of the manufactured article to the consumer to the lowest rate at which it can be produced. This policy would place the mechanic by the side of the farmer, create mutual interchange of their respective commodities, and thus stimulate the industry of the whole country, and render us independent of foreign nations for the supplies required by the habits or necessities of the people.

Another question, wholly independent of protection, presents itself, and that is, whether the duties levied should be upon the value of the article at the place of shipment, or where it is practicable, a specific duty, graduated according to quantity, as ascertained by weight or measure. All our duties are at present *ad valorem*. A certain percentage is levied on the price of the goods at the port of shipment in a foreign country. Most commercial nations have found it indispensable, for the purpose of preventing fraud and perjury, to make the duties specific, whereas the article is of such a uniform value in weight or measure as to justify such a duty. Legislation should never encourage dishonesty or crime. It is impossible that the revenue officers at the port where the goods are entered and the duties paid should know with certainty what they cost in the foreign country. Yet the law requires that they should levy the duty according to such cost. They are therefore compelled to resort to very unsatisfactory evidence to ascertain what that cost was. They take the invoice of the importer, attested by his oath, as the best evidence of which the nature of the case admits. But every one must see that the invoice may be fabricated, and the oath by which it is supported false, by reason of which the dishonest importer pays a part only of the duties which are paid by the honest one, and thus indirectly receives from the Treasury of the United States a reward for his fraud and perjury. The reports of the Secretary of the Treasury heretofore made on this subject show conclusively that these frauds have been practiced to a great extent. The tendency is to destroy that high moral character for which our merchants have long been distinguished; to defraud the Government of its revenue; to break down the honest importer by a dishonest competition; and, finally, to transfer the business of importation to foreign and irresponsible agents, to the great detriment of our own citizens. I therefore again most earnestly recommend the adoption of specific duties, wherever it is practicable, or a home valuation, to prevent these frauds.

I would also again call your attention to the fact that present tariff in some cases imposes a higher duty upon the raw material imported than upon the article manufactured from it, the consequence of which is that the duty operates to the encouragement of the foreigner and the discouragement of our own citizens.

For full and detailed information in regard to the general condition of our Indian affairs, I respectfully refer you to the report of the Secretary of the Interior and the accompanying documents.

The Senate not having thought proper to ratify the treaties which had been negotiated with the tribes of Indians in California and Oregon, our relations with them have been left in a very unsatisfactory condition.

In other parts of our territory particular districts of country have been set apart for the exclusive occupation of

the Indians, and their right to the lands within those limits have been acknowledged and respected. But in California and Oregon there has been no recognition by the Government of the exclusive right of the Indians to any part of the country. They are therefore mere tenants at sufferance, and liable to be driven from place to place, at the pleasure of the whites.

The treaties which have been rejected proposed to remedy this evil by allotting to the different tribes districts of country suitable to their habits of life and sufficient for their support. This provision, more than any other, it is believed, led to their rejection; and as no substitute for it has been adopted by Congress, it has not been deemed advisable to attempt to enter into new treaties of a permanent character, although no effort has been spared by temporary arrangements to preserve friendly relations with them.

If it be the desire of Congress to remove them from the country altogether or to assign to them particular districts more remote from the settlements of the whites, it will be proper to set apart by law the territory which they are to occupy, and to provide the means necessary for removing them to it. Justice as to our own citizens and to the Indians requires the prompt action of Congress on this subject.

The amendments proposed by the Senate, to the treaties which were negotiated with the Sioux Indians of Minnesota, have been submitted to the tribes who were parties to them; and have received their assent. A large tract of valuable territory has thus been opened for settlement and cultivation, and all danger of collision with these powerful and warlike bands has been happily removed.

The removal of the remnant of the tribe of Seminole Indians from Florida has long been a cherished object of the Government; and it is one to which my attention has been steadily directed.—Advised by past experience of the difficulty and cost of the attempt to remove them by military force, resort has been had to conciliatory measures. By the invitation of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs several of the principal chiefs recently visited Washington, and whilst here acknowledged in writing the obligation of their tribe to remove with the least possible delay. Late advices from the special agent of the Government represent that they adhere to their promise, and that a council of their people has been called to make their preliminary arrangements. A general emigration may therefore be confidently expected at an early day.

The report from the General Land Office shows increased activity in its operations. The survey of the northern boundary of Iowa has been completed with unexampled dispatch. Within the last year 9,522,953 acres of public land have been surveyed, and 8,032,463 acres brought into market.

In the last fiscal year

There were sold	1,553,061 acres
Located with bounty	
land warrants	3,201,314 "
Located with other certificates	115,682 "

Making a total of 4,870,067

In addition there were—

Reported under swamp land grants	5,219,168 "
For internal improvements, railroads, &c.	3,025,920 "

Making an aggregate of 13,115,175

Being an increase in the amount of lands sold and located under land warrants of 569,220 acres over the previous year.

The whole amount thus sold, located under land warrants, reported under swamp land grants, and selected for internal improvements, exceed that of the previous year by 3,312,372 acres, and the sales would, without doubt, have been much larger but for the extensive reservations for railroads in Missouri, Mississippi, and Alabama.

For the quarter ending 30th Sept., 1852, there were sold

243,295 acres	
Located with bounty land warrants	1,357,116 "
Located with other certificates	15,649 "
Reported under swamp land grants	2,485,233 "

Making an aggregate for the quarter of 4,131,253

Much the larger portion of the labor of arranging and classifying the returns of the last census has been finished, and it will now devolve upon Congress to make the necessary provision for the publication of the results in such form as shall be deemed best. The appointment of representation on the basis of the new census, has been made by the Secretary of the Interior in conformity with the provisions of law relating to that subject, and the recent elections have been made in accordance with it.

[CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.]

It has been discovered that feathers unskillfully dried and put in beds, are deadly to persons with weak lungs sleeping upon them. Old feather beds, of double age, on which filth and disease have long lingered, are bought, fixed up, and sold as new feathers, often causing sickness and death in families. Look to your feather beds, straw and hanks are far cheaper, healthier, and therefore far more preferable to feathers.

NEW COUNTERFEITS.—Dye's Bank Mirror for December has a full description of a batch of spurious notes which our readers will do well to peruse. Among the dangerous is a \$2 Indiana bill. For detection of this note, see the shading around TWO at upper right corner, and when the note is little more than perceptible. Counterfeit is miserably coarse, when an inspection is made.—The picture of the steeple is a little to the right.

The other new counterfeit is \$5's State Bank of Indiana, \$2's Hartford Bank, \$100's Northern Bank of Kentucky, \$2's Bank of Middletown, Pa., and \$2's Farmers Bank of Kentucky. Cin. Eng.

An exchange declares that girls who ain't handsome have those who are—whilst those who are handsome have one another. Well, but that the inventor of the above has a "mitten" lying on his editorial table.

